



Colorado Local Government

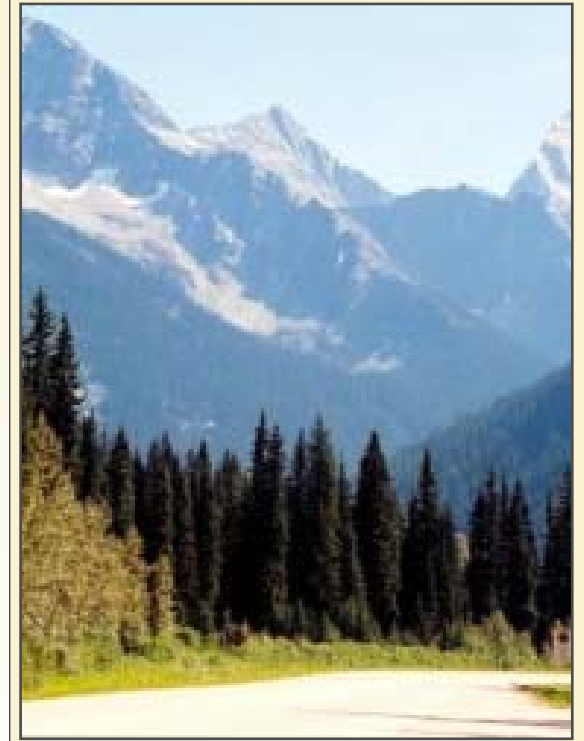
The constitution divides the power of government into three parts or branches: The Legislative Branch which makes the law, the Executive Branch which enforces the laws, and the Judicial Branch which interprets the laws. The Colorado legislature (General Assembly) is made up of two groups the Senate and House of Representatives. The people in these groups are known as 'citizen legislators' because they hold a variety of jobs, ranging from ranching to teaching, during the times they are not serving in the General Assembly.

The Executive Branch of Colorado government is made up of State Officers named in our Constitution. Governor Bill Ritter's job is to make sure that jobs passed by the legislature are properly executed. The Governor also suggests changes for laws to better the community. Our courts make up the Judicial Branch of government. Courts conduct and review trials in both civil and criminal cases. There are four primary courts in Colorado: County Courts, District Courts, the Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court.



Colorado's scenic beauty comes alive in every corner of the state and throughout all seasons. Tourists flock to Colorado to ride scenic byways, soak in the history of the Old West, ski Vail and enjoy great summer activities like whitewater rafting in Durango. There is always something to do in Colorado no matter what time of year. In the winter, the Colorado mountains turn into a winter wonderland. In the summer, you can visit the Denver Zoo, take a hot air balloon ride, or take a long bike ride through the mountains. Tourism is a very important part of the Colorado economy, especially in the small mountain ski towns.

COLORADO



† ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK ¢



Colorado Flag

The Flag of the State of Colorado consists of three horizontal stripes of equal width; the top and bottom stripes are blue, and the middle stripe is white. On top of these stripes sits a circular red "C" filled with a golden disk. The blue is meant to represent the skies, the gold stands for the sunshine enjoyed by the state, the white represents the snow-capped mountains and the red represents the earth.



Interesting Facts

- *The Stegosaurus is the Colorado State fossil
- *Colorado's state song is "Where the Columbines Grow"
- *Denver lays claim to the invention of the cheeseburger in 1935
- *Colfax Avenue in Denver is the longest continuous road in America

Colorado Community

There are many job opportunities available that help support the Colorado community. The government provides jobs such as police officers, teachers, politicians, engineers, architects, doctors, and economists. Tourism also provides many seasonal jobs. In the winter, jobs are available at local ski resorts and snowmobile parks. In the summer people have jobs as mountain guides, rafting guides, and park rangers. No matter the season or the job the Colorado community depends on people working together to help make it safe and strong.



Colorado Agriculture

There are 30,500 farms and ranches in Colorado encompassing 30.7 million acres. That's nearly half of the state's total land area. There are more than 105,000 jobs in Colorado related to agribusiness, contributing \$16 billion annually to Colorado's economy. Colorado ranks first in producing proso millet, a grass that is grown to feed livestock and birds. Colorado is also known for its production of sunflowers, potatoes, grain, pinto beans, onions, lettuce and peaches. Colorado's leading livestock is cattle, sheep and lamb. Producers and consumers are working hard to buy and sell locally grown foods and livestock in order to help support the Colorado economy and community.